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Senate Hearings

Dodd Says He's Confident Of a 'Favorable Outcome'

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Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), who asked the Senate ethics committee to look into his affairs following misconduct allegations by two newspaper columnists, says he is "confident of a favorable outcome."

Dodd said charges by columnists Drew Pierson and Jack Anderson forced him to ask the committee to conduct an investigation.

The senior Connecticut senator said his over-all mail is running 90 to ten in support of him "and the favorable ratio is even higher from Connecticut."

"Everything I hear, every-

where I go, people treat me kindly," he said.

Dodd revealed to The Day that he had been handicapped during the early part of the investigation by poor health, and that the hearings had hampered his effectiveness as a senator.

"It's an expensive thing to clear your name," Dodd said. "It's bound to put me in debt. But you have to expect to get into such things in public life."

"I have taken stands that many others wouldn't have taken," he added. "I've taken on some tough legislation."

Dodd said he was referring to legislation he sponsored against the illegal possession and use of drugs, proposed gun legislation, and his constant battle against communism.

Terming those three "big business with powerful influence," he said he would continue his positions and "will never stop fighting communism."

"I was under a handicap from January to April," Dodd said, in reference to the investigation of his affairs. "I was in a poor state of health but I didn't want it known." He said his doctor told him he was working too hard and had become run down.

Dodd said he had maintained silence during the early, and most heated, part of the investigation because "having asked the committee to investigate, I didn't think it was proper to make any public statements."

He said the investigation has hampered his effectiveness as a senator "because it has taken up so much of my time."

Dodd added, however, that he continues to deal with numerous Connecticut problems every day. He said he has not slackened his efforts to aid individuals and companies from Connecticut when they need assistance from the government.

"The government's a big, sprawling thing," the senator added. "One of my biggest jobs is to make sure the right governmental agency when they have a problem."



THOMAS J. DODD

Dodd spoke in a quiet, unemotional voice from an easy chair at his home in North Stonington. He and his wife were babysitting for the two children of their oldest daughter. Occasionally the senator turned his attention to one of the tots.

'Quiet, Peaceful'

"It's good to be here," Dodd said. "It's quiet and peaceful."

Mrs. Dodd said she had become "a little frightened" to stay at the house because someone had taken a shot at a sign on their property Thursday night. Dodd speculated that it might have been because of "the badly misunderstood" gun legislation he has proposed in the Senate.

Slate Police were notified of the incident.

Dodd spoke about communism as he got up and searched about the house—originally built in 1740—for a cigar. When he found one he said he hoped it hadn't been laying there since last summer. His forehead was red from a day in the sun and he said, "This is my first real week end at home all summer."

Dodd was scheduled to participate in Senate hearings on communism in Latin America.

"There is a substantial, con-

tinuing threat of communism in the United States," Dodd said. "The communists are hard at work, especially around our universities."

Behind Many Masks

He said many young people are duped by the communists. "Our universities and colleges should be showing students how to recognize communism," Dodd said. "It hides behind many masks, and the best way to fight it is to understand its nature."

The senator said he doesn't believe the communists control pacifist demonstrations, but added, "Communists will play whatever hand they can in such demonstrations. They want to create disorder and violence."

Dodd praised organized labor as "a strong bulwark against communism in our country."

"Many union leaders are strong anti-communists because they have had experience with them," he said. "They've fought communists."

He said he doesn't know if there are any communists within the government. "The FBI

and CIA are on top of the job and are doing a good job of keeping them out," he said. "But it's a day to day job."

In discussing some congressional efforts to seek out communists, Dodd said, "I never saw a communist under every chair, and I don't confuse communists with liberals."

"I'm a liberal and my voting record proves it," the senator said. "I don't see how any liberal can be anything but anti-communist."